

**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
White River Field Office
220 E Market St
Meeker, CO 81641**

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY (DNA)

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0113-DNA

PROJECT NAME: 2014 Big Game Special Recreation Permit Renewals

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: (See attached figures.)

APPLICANTS: Andrew Barnard doing business as (dba) Brush Mountain Outfitters (Figure 1)
Charles Barrett dba Charles Barrett (Figure 2)
Curtis Cherry dba Cherry Ranch (Figure 3)
Gayle Rogers dba Crawford Ranch (Figure 4)
Don Dockins dba Eagles Nest Outfitting (Figure 5)
Les Woodward dba Hogback Ridge Adventures (Figure 6)
Rick Tingle dba Louisiana Purchase Ranch (Figure 7)
Brett Harvey dba Lunney Mountain Outfitters (Figure 8)
Ray Morgan Jr. dba MTW Ranch (Figure 9)
Monty Elder dba Rim Rock Outfitters (Figure 10)
Joe Sullivan dba Sullivan Brothers Outfitting (Figure 11)
Boone Vaughn dba Vaughn Ranch (Figure 12)
William DeShaw dba Wyoming Hunting Outfitters (Figure 13)

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: No issues or concerns were identified.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action is to renew special recreation permits (SRPs) for commercial big game outfitting and guiding for the above listed applicants. These applicants have been issued commercial SRPs by the BLM for outfitting and guiding big game hunters on public lands within the White River Field Office (WRFO). They have all successfully operated their permit under BLM Colorado Special Recreation Permits, Conditions and Stipulations for all permitted activities and the BLM WRFO SRP Policy. The applicants' permits have expired and they have applied for a multi-year (five year) permit or a single year permit.

First and second year SRP applicants must successfully perform under single year permits in order to be eligible for multi-year permits according to WRFO SRP Policy. Those that have an expired multi-year permit are able to apply for another multi-year (five year) permit. Single year SRP applicants include: Charles Barrett doing business as (dba) Charles Barrett, Les Woodward dba Hogback Ridge Adventures, and William DeShaw dba Wyoming Hunting Outfitters. All other applicants have applied for a multi-year (five year) SRP.

These applicants generally all operate their commercial business from late August through December of each year, which include all Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) big game seasons.

There is one drop camp included in these applications for SRP renewals for Eagles Nest Outfitting on Buford Ridge. Most of these commercial operations take place on a mix of private and public lands. All use will be casual and dispersed in nature within the permitted areas only. Transportation that is planned to be used during the commercial operations includes full-sized motor vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, some may potentially use horses or pack stock as well. All motorized vehicles will be limited to existing routes only.

Design Features:

1. All commercial use of Public Lands will comply with the current version of the BLM Colorado Special Recreation Permits, Conditions and Stipulations for all permitted activities (Attachment 1).
2. When working on lands administered by the BLM WRFO, notify Craig Interagency Dispatch (970-826-5037) in the event of any fire. The reporting party will inform the dispatch center of fire location, size, status, smoke color, aspect, fuel type, and provide their contact information. The reporting party, or a representative of, should remain nearby, in a safe location, in order to make contact with incoming fire resources to expedite actions taken towards an appropriate management response. The applicant will not engage in any fire suppression activities outside the approved project area. Accidental ignitions will be suppressed by the applicant only if safety is not endangered and if the fire can be safely contained using hand tools and portable hand pumps. If chemical fire extinguishers are used the applicant must notify incoming fire resources on extinguisher type and the location of use. Natural ignitions caused by lightning will be managed by Federal fire personnel. The use of heavy equipment for fire suppression is prohibited, unless authorized by the Field Office Manager.
3. Grazing permittees will be notified by a BLM Rangeland Specialist if commercial SRPs or filming permits are authorized or proposed in their permitted grazing allotment.

Decision to be Made: The BLM will decide whether or not to renew multi-year (five year) SRPs for Andrew Barnard dba Brush Mountain Outfitters, Curtis Cherry dba Cherry Ranch, Gayle Rogers dba Crawford Ranch, Don Dockins dba Eagles Nest Outfitting, Rick Tingle dba Louisiana Purchase Ranch, Brett Harvey dba Lunney Mountain Outfitters, Ray Morgan Jr. dba MTW Ranch, Monty Elder dba Rim Rock Outfitters, Joe Sullivan dba Sullivan Brothers Outfitting, and Boone Vaughn dba Vaughn Ranch, and single year SRPs to Charles Barrett dba Charles Barrett, Les Woodward dba Hogback Ridge Adventures, and William DeShaw dba Wyoming Hunting Outfitters for commercial guiding and outfitting for big game hunting, and if so, under what terms and conditions.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: White River Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (ROD/RMP).

Date Approved: July 1, 1997

Decision Number/Page: 2-43

Decision Language: "Special recreation permits (SRPs) will be issued to qualified guides and outfitters based on need and demand for services."

REVIEW OF EXISTING NEPA DOCUMENTS:

List by name and date all existing NEPA documents that cover the Proposed Action.

Name of Document: White River Resource Area Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS).

Date Approved: June 1996

Name of Document: Special Recreation Permits within the WRFO Involving Special Areas, More than 14 Days Consecutive Use, and/or Staging Areas Greater than Three Acres (DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0057-EA)

Date Approved: July 31, 2014

NEPA ADEQUACY CRITERIA:

1. Is the new Proposed Action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

Documentation of answer and explanation: The new Proposed Action is essentially similar to the selected alternative analyzed in the environmental assessment DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0057-EA. It is within the same analysis area and there are no substantial differences.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document appropriate with respect to the new Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Two alternatives (Proposed Action and No Action Alternative) were analyzed in DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0057-EA. No reasons were identified to analyze additional alternatives and these alternatives are considered to be adequate and valid for the Proposed Action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new Proposed Action?

Documentation of answer and explanation: Additional projects have been analyzed in the area but no known changes in circumstances or information have been found, thus the original analysis is still valid. Please see the comments below regarding cultural resources, wild horses, and threatened and endangered wildlife and plants species for further discussion.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new Proposed Action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Documentation of answer and explanation: The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that could result from implementing this Proposed Action would still remain similar to EA: DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0057-EA.

5. Is the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA documents adequate for the current Proposed Action?

Documentation of answer and explanation: A copy of the completed DNA will also be posted to the online NEPA register. All existing SRP holders that have permitted operating areas that overlap with this proposal were sent a copy of this DNA. No comments were received.

INTERDISCIPLINARY REVIEW:

The Proposed Action was presented to, and reviewed by, the White River Field Office interdisciplinary team on 8/5/2014. A complete list of resource specialists who participated in this review is available upon request from the White River Field Office. The table below lists resource specialists who provided additional remarks concerning cultural resources and special status species.

Name	Title	Resource	Date
Brian Yaquinto	Archaeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	8/20/2014
Lisa Belmonte	Wildlife Biologist	Special Status Wildlife Species	8/14/2014
Justina Thorsen	Ecologist	Special Status Plant Species	8/19/2014

REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: There are no cultural-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action. Cultural issues for Eagles' Nest Outfitting were adequately addressed in the original Categorical Exclusion DOI-BLM-CO-110-2012-0113-CX. The Eagle's Nest drop camp was surveyed to Class III inventory standards that involved one person walking zig-zag transects back and forth, spaced 15-m apart, through a 5-acre block centered on the camp location. Special attention was given to areas with exposed soil with good surface visibility. Trees were checked for aspen glyphs at this time as well.

Currently there are no recorded cultural resources and no National Register or otherwise Eligible cultural properties known to be located near the Eagle's Nest camp. Based on available data few or limited resources are expected because of the lack of findings by other surveys in the immediate vicinity, and the steep, rough, and heavily vegetated topography. No further cultural work is needed.

Native American Religious Concerns: No Native American religious concerns are known in the project area, and none have been noted by Ute Tribal authorities.

Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species: There are no wildlife-related issues or concerns associated with the Proposed Action.

Special Status Plant Species:

The following table describes which special status plant species occur within each individual special recreation permit area.

Applicant Name	Special Status Plants in Permit Area
Brush Mountain Outfitters	Cathedral Bluff Meadow-rue, Cathedral Bluff dwarf gentian, Piceance bladderpod in the southern portion of the permit, along the northern border (Cathedral Bluffs).
Charles Barrett	NONE
Cherry Ranch	NONE
Crawford Ranch	NONE
Eagles Nest Outfitting	NONE
Hogback Ridge Adventures	NONE
Louisiana Purchase Ranch	NONE
Lunney Mountain Outfitters	NONE
MTW Ranch	NONE
Rim Rock Outfitters	All – Duck Creek and Raven Ridge ACEC
Sullivan Brothers Outfitting	Piceance bladderpod occurs along southwest portion of permit area near Timber Gulch.
Vaughn Ranch	NONE
Wyoming Hunting Outfitters	Cathedral Bluff dwarf gentian, Cathedral Bluff meadow rue, Dudley Bluffs bladderpod, Dudley Bluffs twinpod, Piceance

Special status plant species are known to occur within several of the permit renewal boundaries. The federally threatened Dudley Bluffs bladderpod (*Physaria congesta*) and Dudley Bluffs twinpod (*Physaria obcordata*) are known to occur within the permit areas for Rim Rock Outfitters and Wyoming Hunting Outfitters. No special status plants are known to occur within the Eagles Nest Outfitting permit area where a drop camp is proposed. Due to the dispersed and casual nature of the special recreation activities associated with this proposed action, no conceivable impacts are expected for special status plants.

MITIGATION:

The following applicable mitigation from DOI-BLM-CO-NO5-2014-0057-EA has been carried forward:

1. The permittees are responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The permittee will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The permittee, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the permittee must notify the AO, by telephone and written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the permittee must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.
4. The permittee is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with commercial operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the permittee must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.

COMPLIANCE PLAN: On-going compliance inspections and monitoring will be conducted by the BLM White River Field Office staff before, during, and after the permitted seasons. The applicants will be placed on a probationary status for a minimum of two consecutive years prior to the conversion of the permits to a five year status. Annual reviews will be conducted of each applicant's operations to insure compliance with the agreed upon terms, stipulations, and conditions of the permit. WRFO recreation staff and law enforcement personnel will also conduct periodic, random on-site inspections of each permittee's operations to insure compliance. The issuance of these permits is discretionary and can be revoked by the WRFO Authorized Officer at any time.

NAME OF PREPARER: Aaron Grimes, Outdoor Recreation Planner

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: Heather Sauls

CONCLUSION

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:



Field Manager

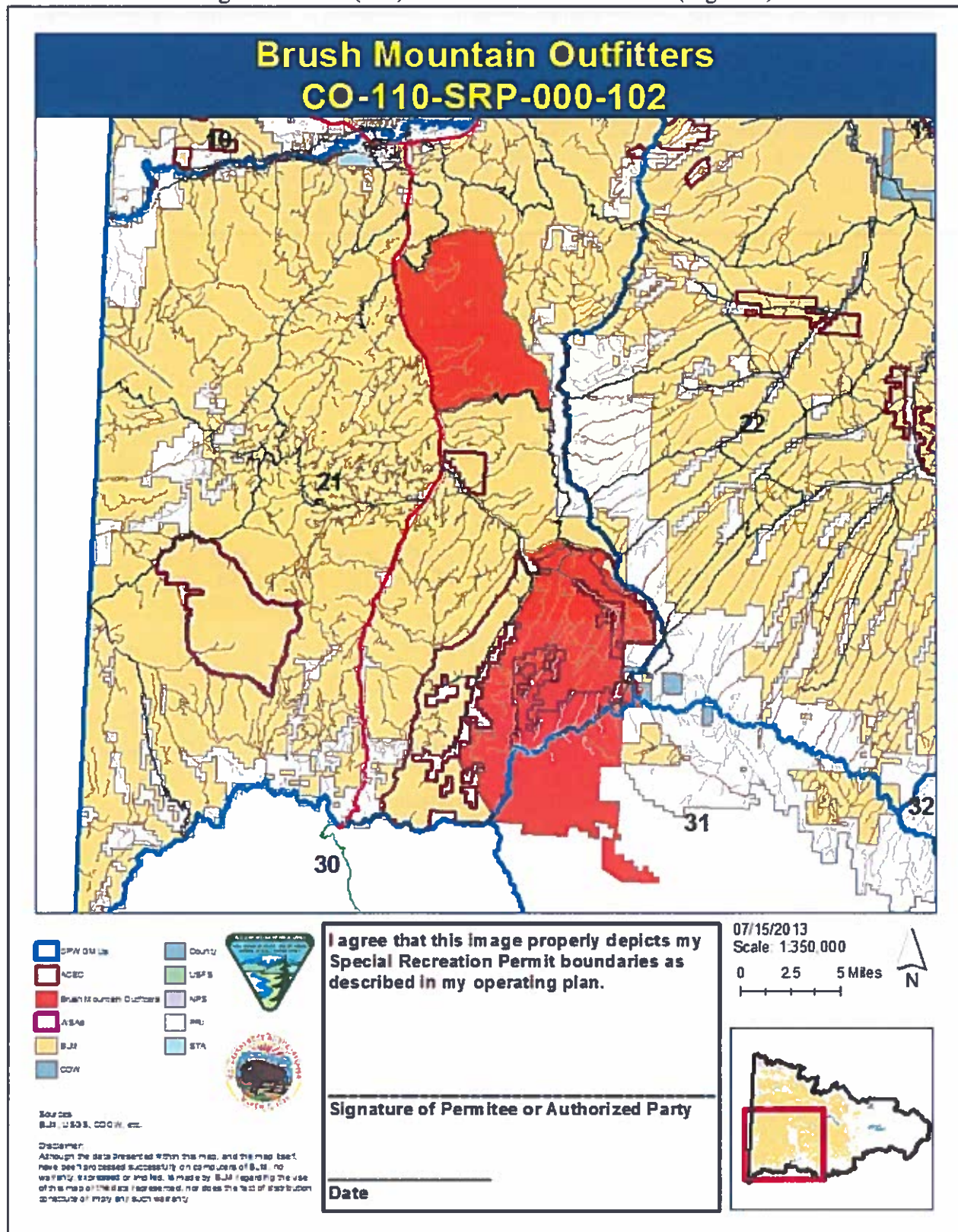
DATE SIGNED: 08/25/2014

ATTACHMENTS:

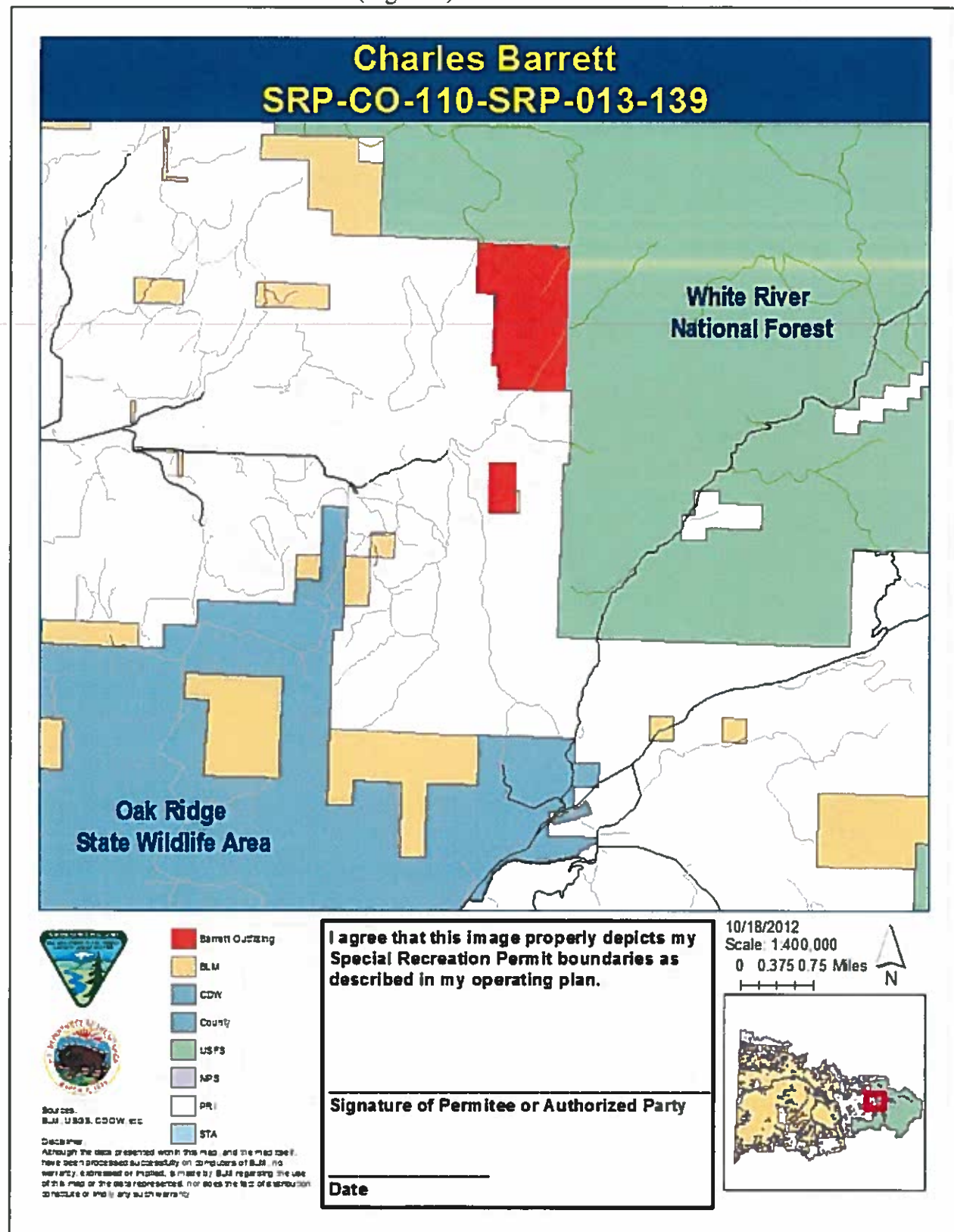
MAPS OF OPERATING AREAS:

Andrew Barnard doing business as (dba) Brush Mountain Outfitters (Figure 1)
Charles Barrett dba Charles Barrett (Figure 2)
Curtis Cherry dba Cherry Ranch (Figure 3)
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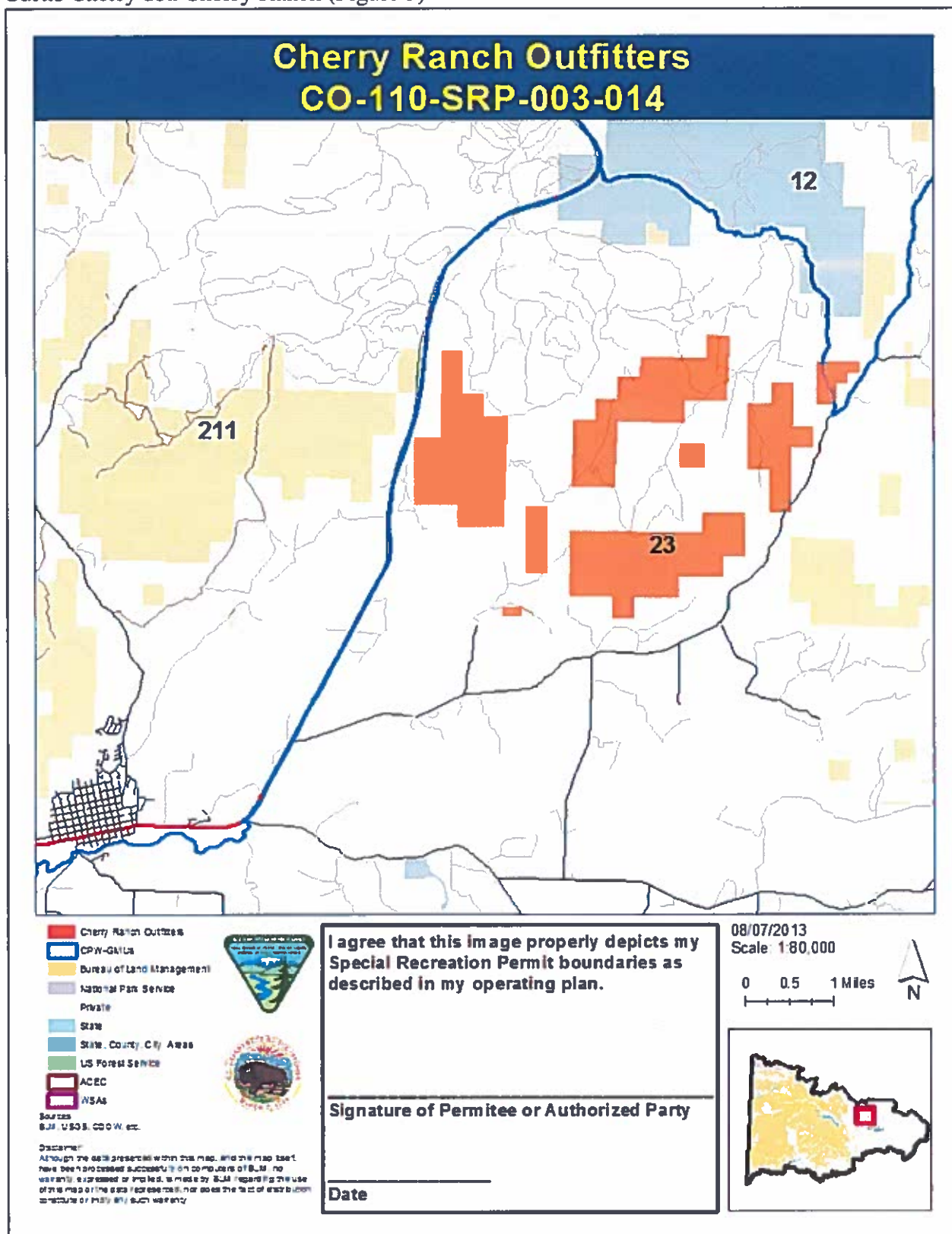
Andrew Barnard doing business as (dba) Brush Mountain Outfitters (Figure 1)



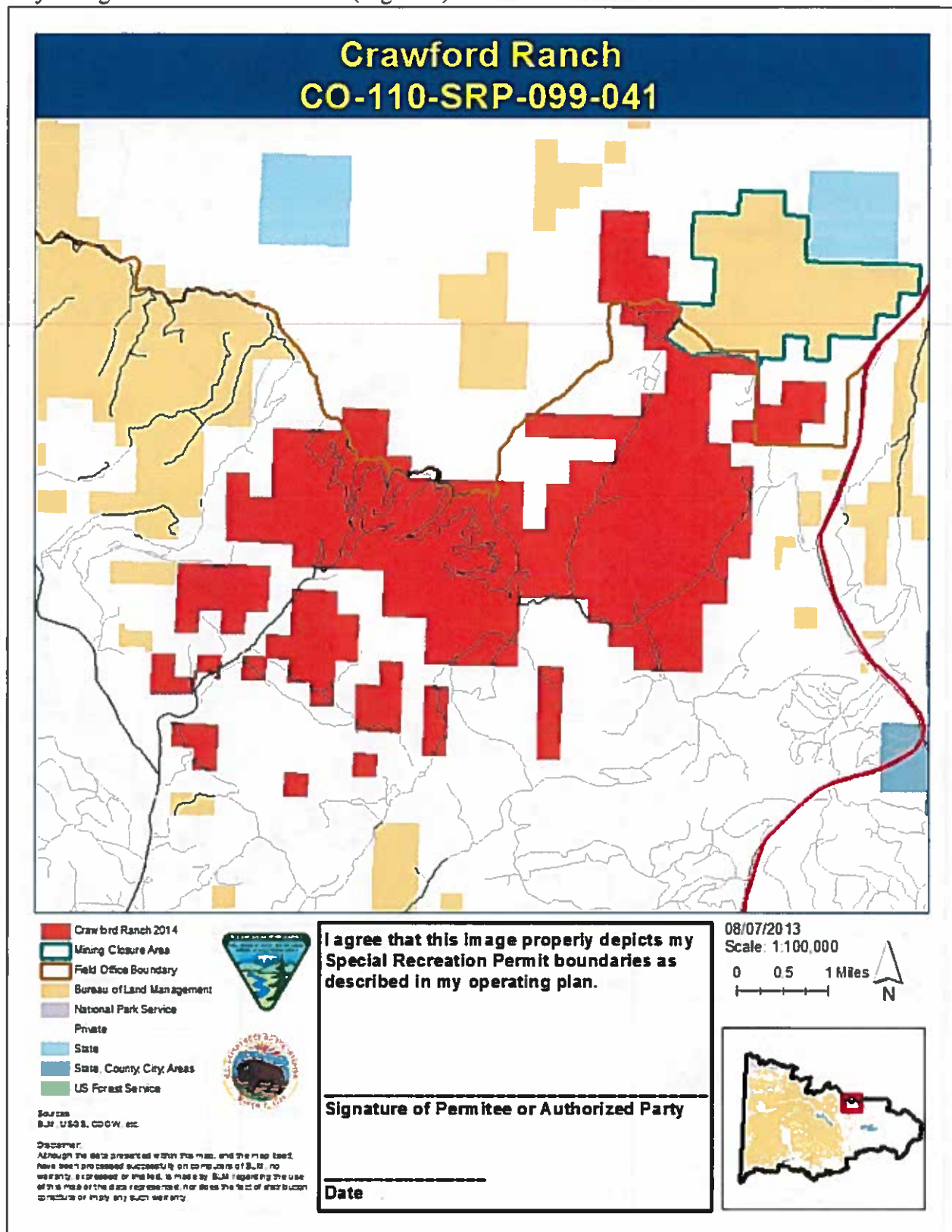
Charles Barrett dba Charles Barrett (Figure 2)



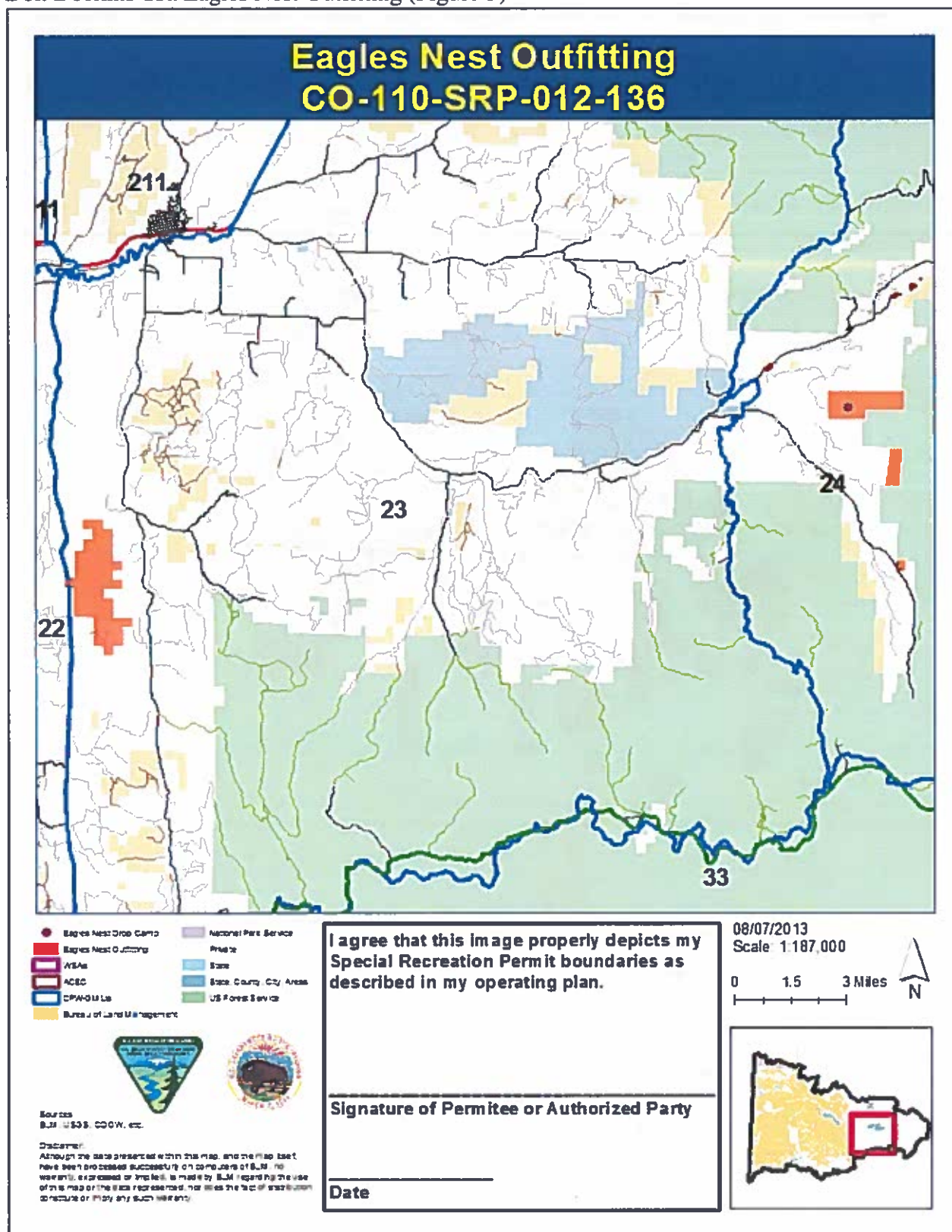
Curtis Cherry dba Cherry Ranch (Figure 3)



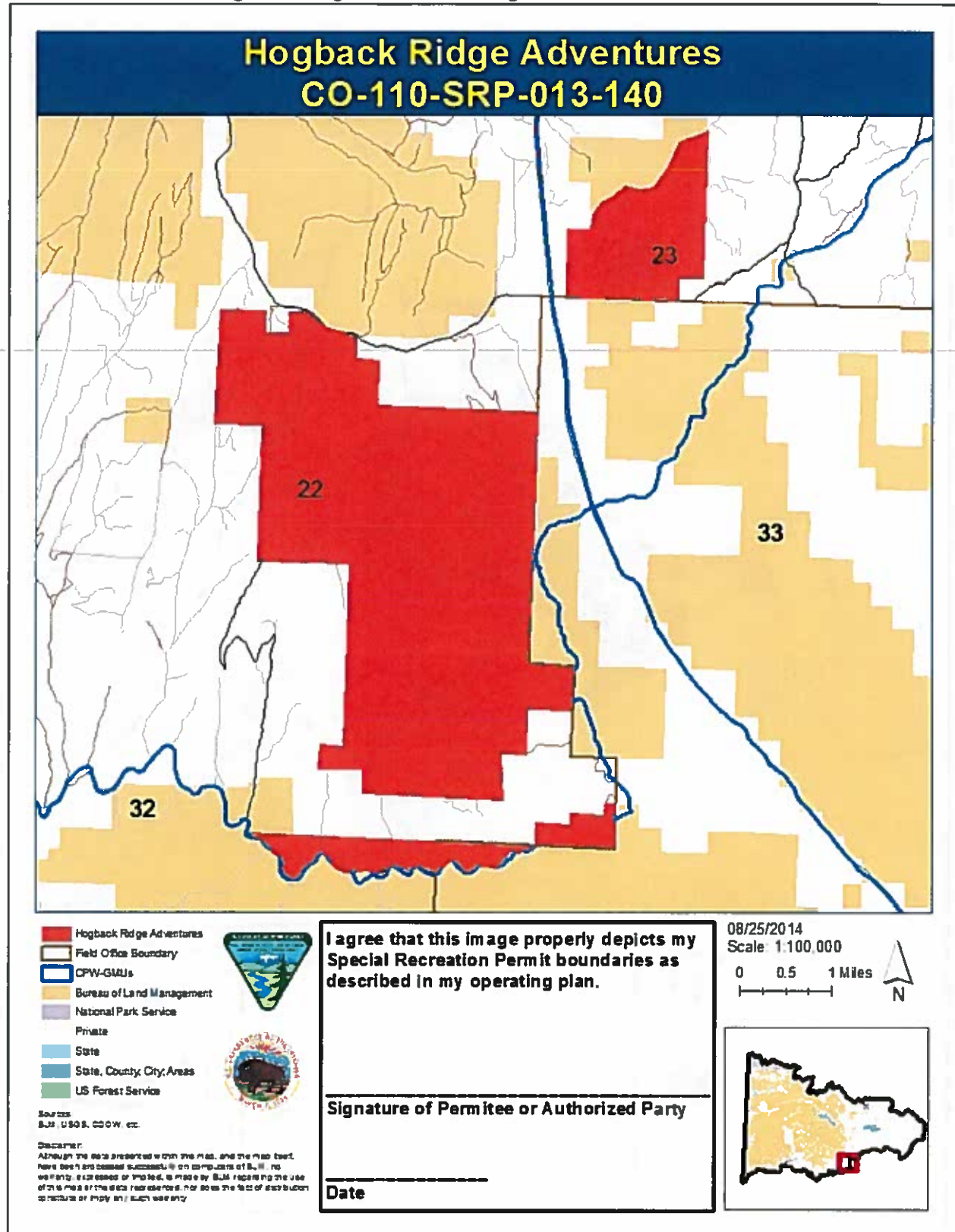
Gayle Rogers dba Crawford Ranch (Figure 4)



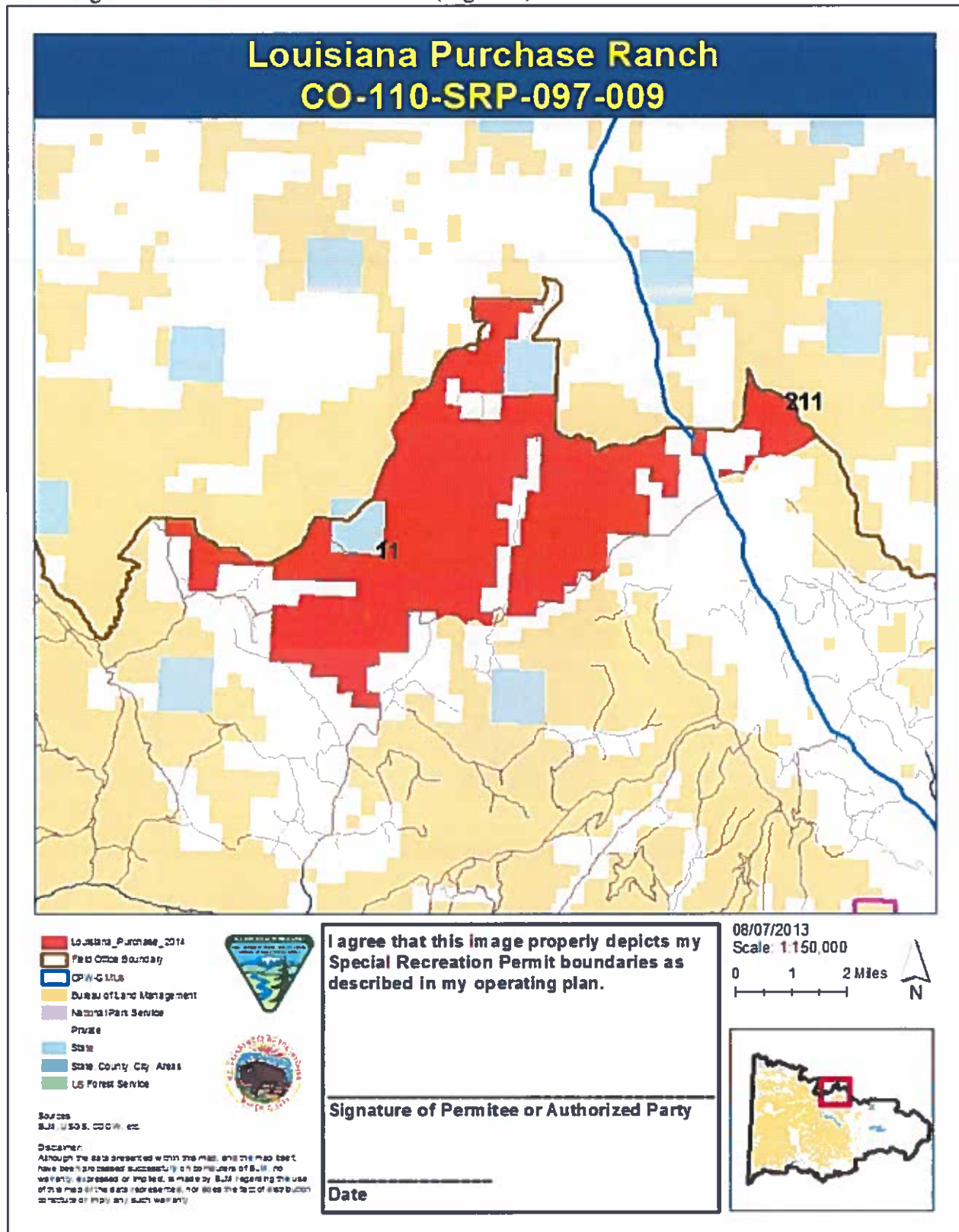
Don Dockins dba Eagles Nest Outfitting (Figure 5)



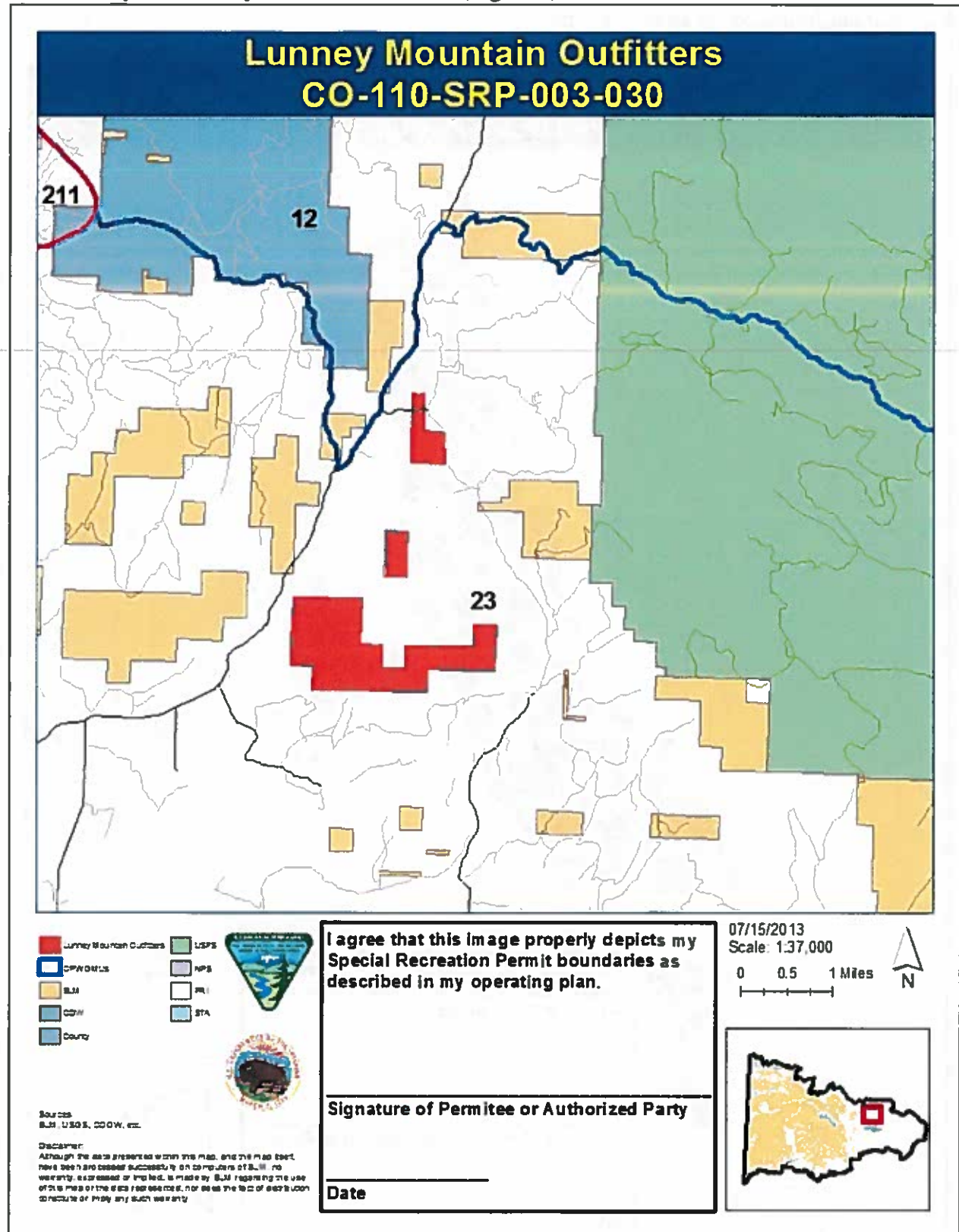
Les Woodward dba Hogback Ridge Adventures (Figure 6)



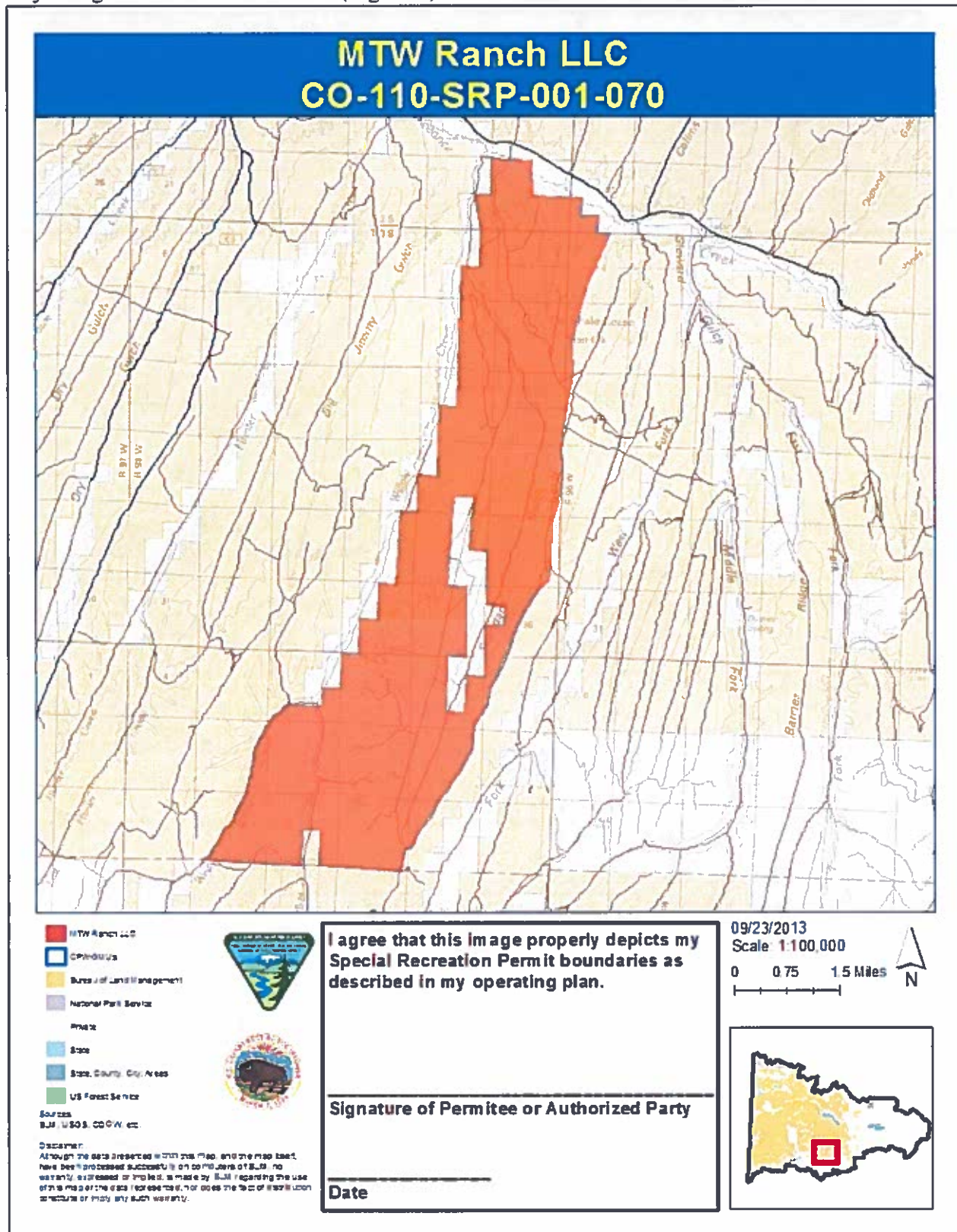
Rick Tingle dba Louisiana Purchase Ranch (Figure 7)



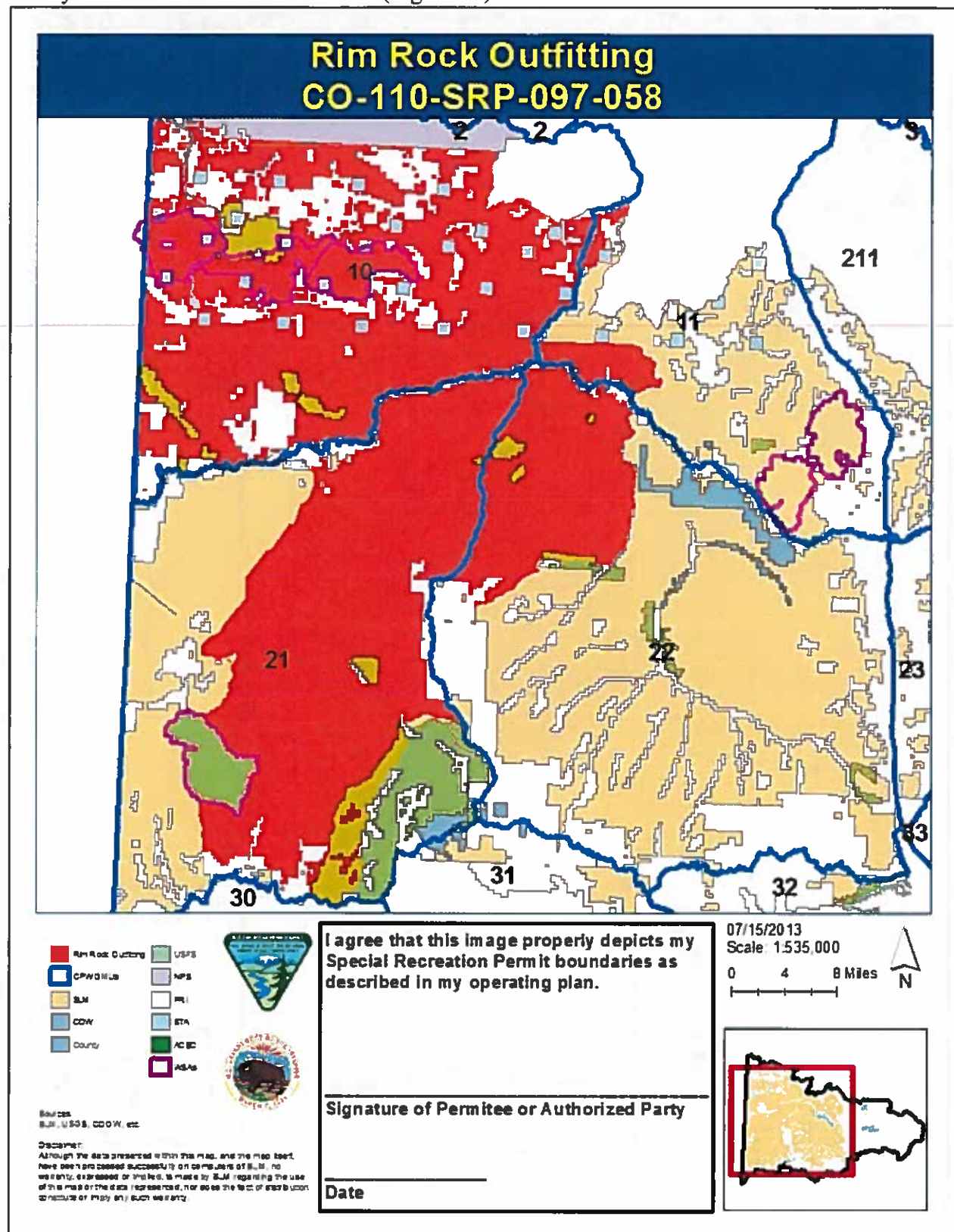
Brett Harvey dba Lunney Mountain Outfitters (Figure 8)



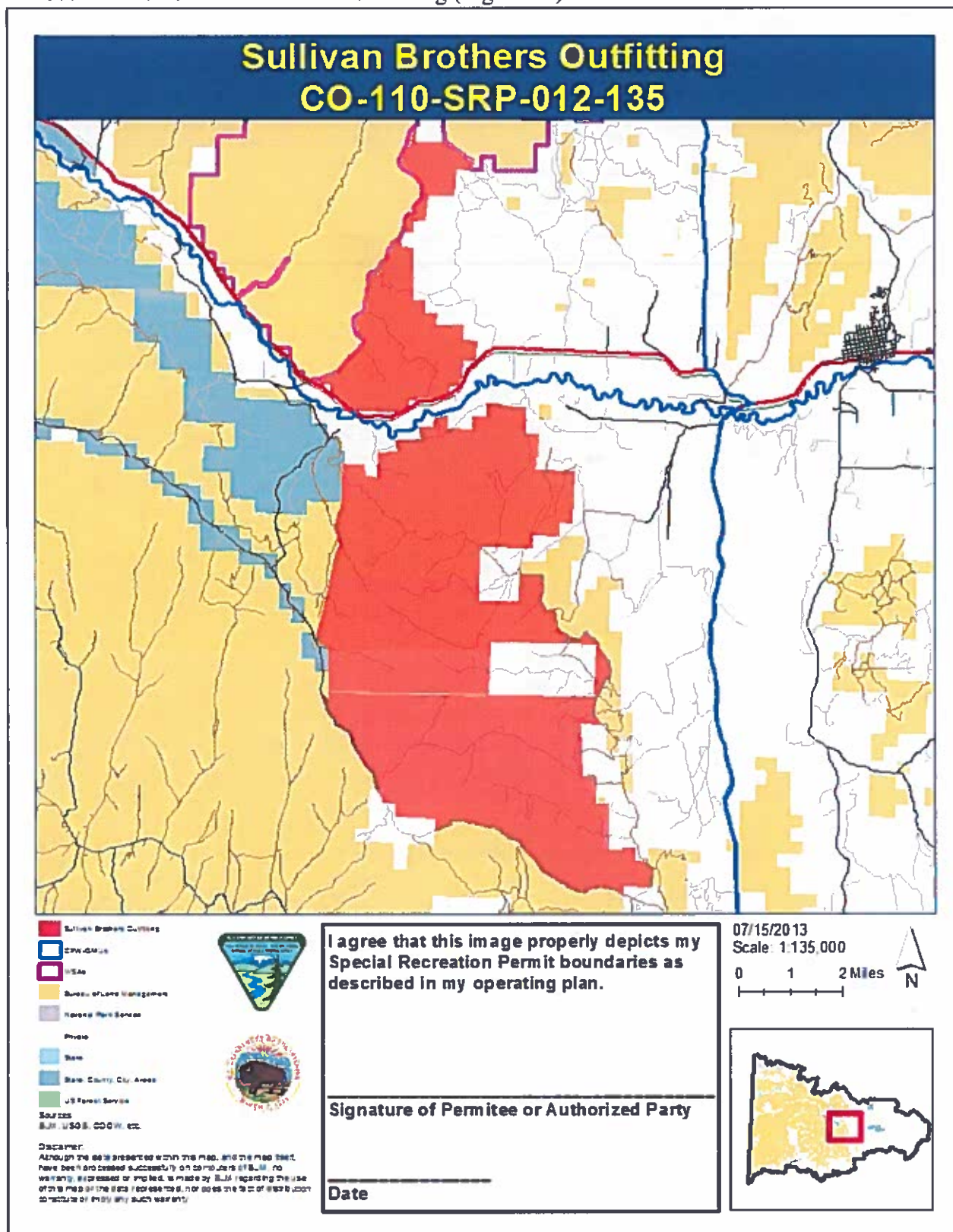
Ray Morgan Jr. dba MTW Ranch (Figure 9)



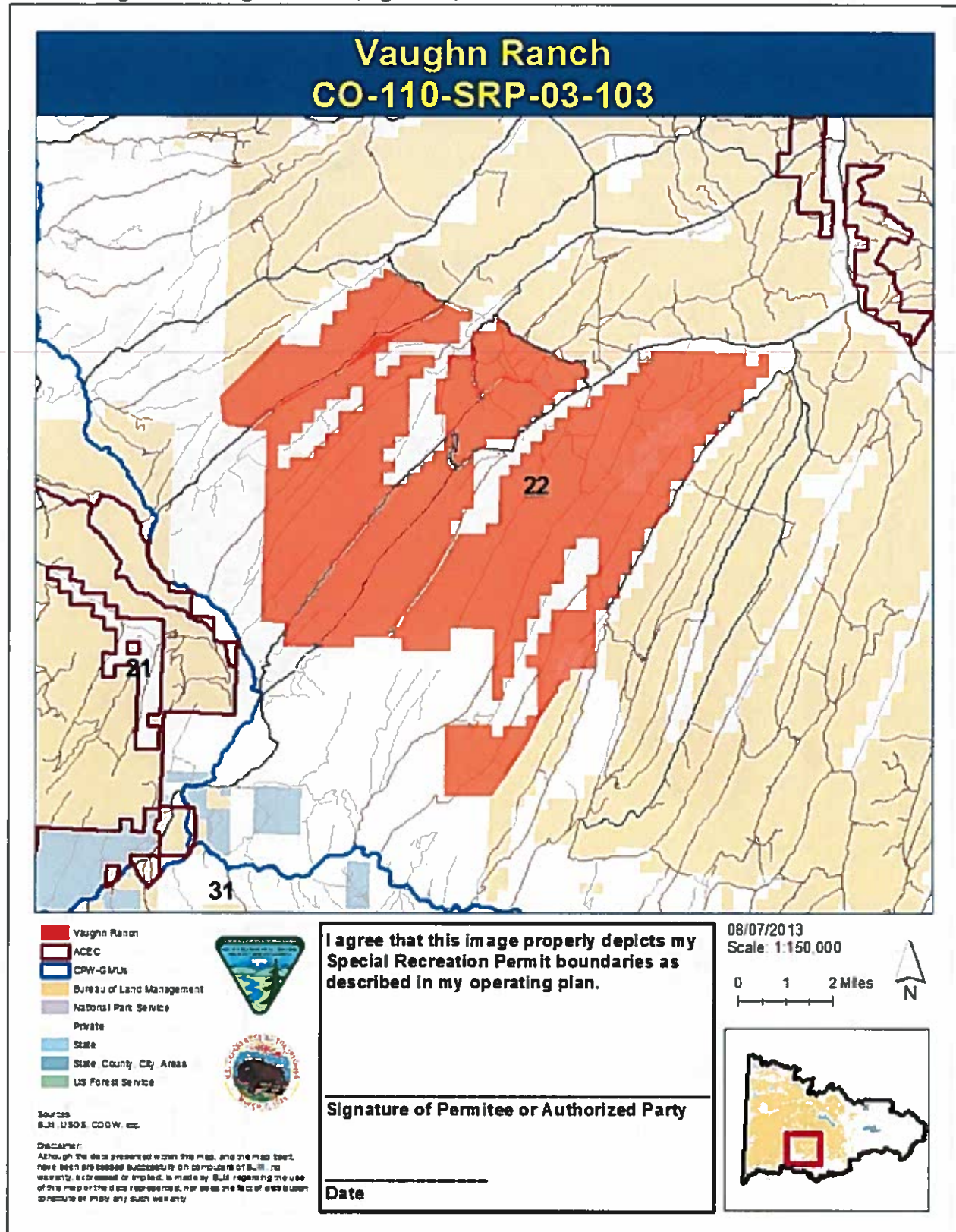
Monty Elder dba Rim Rock Outfitters (Figure 10)



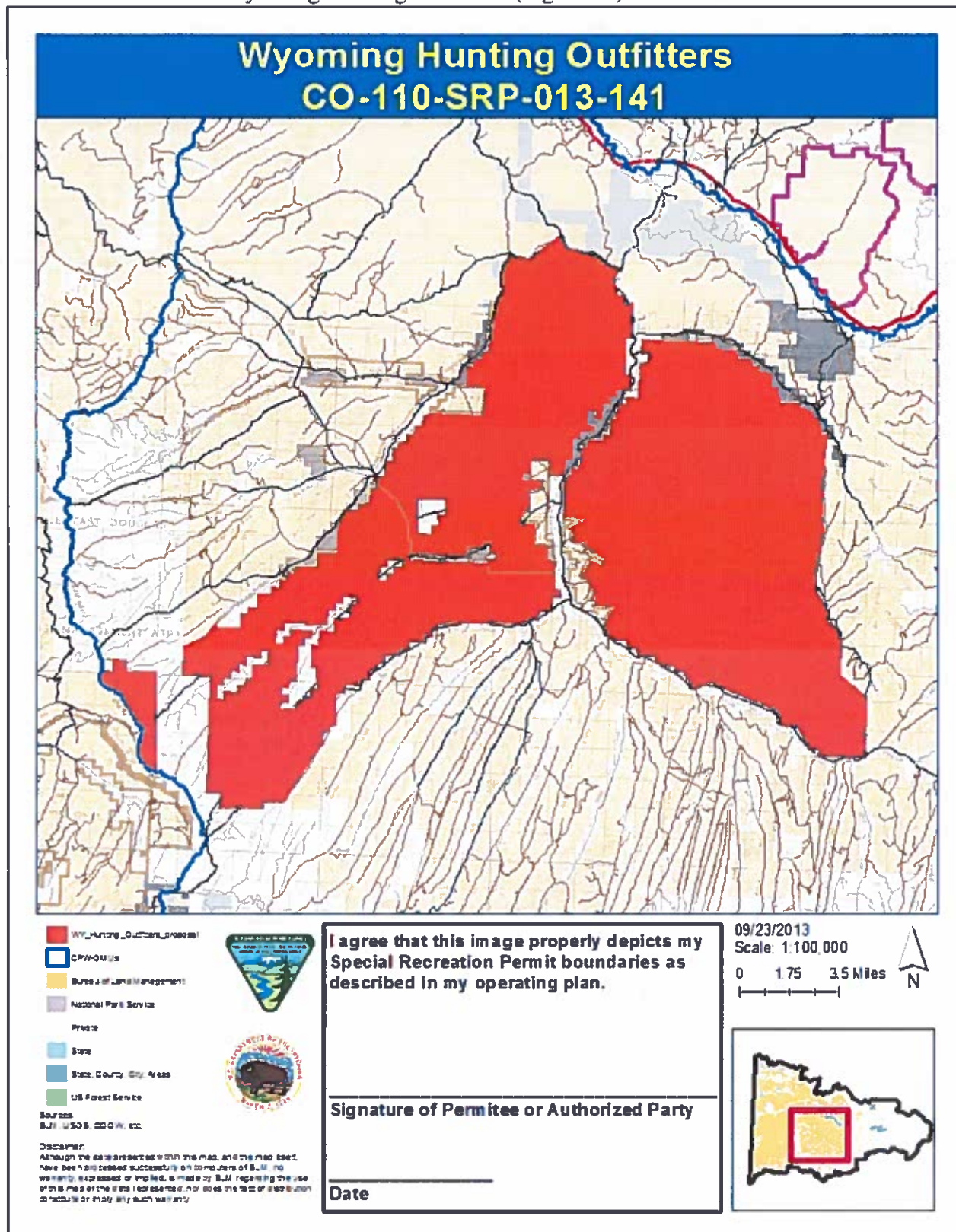
Joe Sullivan dba Sullivan Brothers Outfitting (Figure 11)



Boone Vaughn dba Vaughn Ranch (Figure 12)



William DeShaw dba Wyoming Hunting Outfitters (Figure 13)



Note: The signed Conclusion in this DNA Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

**U.S. Department of the Interior
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DECISION RECORD

PROJECT NAME: 2014 Big Game Special Recreation Permit Renewals

DETERMINATION OF NEPA ADEQUACY NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0113-DNA

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action, as mitigated in DOI-BLM-CO-N05-2014-0113-DNA, authorizing the renewal of commercial Special Recreation Permits for big game outfitting and guiding which specifically includes issuing multi-year (five year) SRPs for Andrew Barnard doing business as (dba) Brush Mountain Outfitters, Curtis Cherry dba Cherry Ranch, Gayle Rogers dba Crawford Ranch, Don Dockins dba Eagles Nest Outfitting, Rick Tingle dba Louisiana Purchase Ranch, Brett Harvey dba Lunney Mountain Outfitters, Ray Morgan Jr. dba MTW Ranch, Monty Elder dba Rim Rock Outfitters, Joe Sullivan dba Sullivan Brothers Outfitting, and Boone Vaughn dba Vaughn Ranch, and issuing single-year SRPs to Charles Barrett dba Charles Barrett, Les Woodward dba Hogback Ridge Adventures, and William DeShaw dba Wyoming Hunting Outfitters.

Mitigation Measures

1. The permittees are responsible for informing all persons who are associated with the project that they will be subject to prosecution for knowingly disturbing archaeological sites or for collecting artifacts.
2. If any archaeological materials are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, activity in the vicinity of the discovery will cease, and the BLM WRFO Archaeologist will be notified immediately. Work may not resume at that location until approved by the AO. The permittee will make every effort to protect the site from further impacts including looting, erosion, or other human or natural damage until BLM determines a treatment approach, and the treatment is completed. Unless previously determined in treatment plans or agreements, BLM will evaluate the cultural resources and, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), select the appropriate mitigation option within 48 hours of the discovery. The permittee, under guidance of the BLM, will implement the mitigation in a timely manner. The process will be fully documented in reports, site forms, maps, drawings, and photographs. The BLM will forward documentation to the SHPO for review and concurrence.
3. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the permittee must notify the AO, by telephone and

written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), the permittee must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the AO.

4. The permittee is responsible for informing all persons who are associated with commercial operations that they will be subject to prosecution for disturbing or collecting vertebrate or other scientifically-important fossils, collecting large amounts of petrified wood (over 25lbs./day, up to 250lbs./year), or collecting fossils for commercial purposes on public lands. If any paleontological resources are discovered as a result of operations under this authorization, the permittee must immediately contact the appropriate BLM representative.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS & CONFORMANCE WITH THE LAND USE PLAN

This decision is in compliance with the Endangered Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act. It is also in conformance with the 1997 White River Record of Decision/Approved Resource Management Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A copy of the completed Documentation of NEPA Adequacy will be posted on online NEPA register.

RATIONALE

The proposal for renewing these Special Recreation Permits conforms to the land use plan and the NEPA documentation previously prepared fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Process for Appeals

An appeal is an opportunity for a qualified party to obtain a review of a BLM decision by an independent board of Administrative judges within the Department of Interior's Board of Land Appeals (IBLA). The IBLA determines whether the BLM followed applicable laws and regulations, adhered to established policies and procedures, and considered relevant information in reaching a decision.

Individuals, who believe they are adversely affected by a BLM decision to deny, modify or cancel a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) may appeal the decision. Appeals are made to the IBLA under Title 43 C.F.R., Part 4, pursuant to 43 C.F.R. §4.411. A person who wishes to appeal to the IBLA must file in the office of the officer who made the decision a notice that he wishes to appeal. "Information on Taking Appeals to the Board of Land Appeals" is enclosed for your convenience.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kent C. Walker", is written over a horizontal line.

Field Manager

DATE SIGNED: 08/25/2014